

What is Claimed is:

- [c1] 1. A system for performing remote computer system management, the system comprising:
 - a client-server text messaging (CSTM) monitor installed on a computer system, the monitor configured to monitor a CSTM server for commands posted thereto; and
 - a management program installed on the computer system which is responsive to the commands.
- [c2] 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the CSTM monitor and server are configured to function according to Internet relay chat protocol.
- [c3] 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the command is in the form of a text string.
- [c4] 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the command includes a preface, an identifier and an instruction for the management program.
- [c5] 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the CSTM monitor is also configured to post a response from the management program to the CSTM server.
- [c6] 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the CSTM server includes a log program configured to record CSTM server activities.
- [c7] 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the CSTM server is configured to receive commands from an update server.
- [c8] 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the CSTM monitor is also configured to sense a problem in the computer system.
- [c9] 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the management program is idle until it receives a command.
- [c10] 10. A method of managing a managed computer system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - monitoring a client-server text messaging (CSTM) server for a command posted thereto, each command including a computer system identifier for the command and an instruction; and

receiving the command at the managed computer system and executing the instruction with a management program.

- [c11] 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the command is in the form of a text string.
- [c12] 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the CSTM server is configured to function according to Internet relay chat protocol.
- [c13] 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of sensing a problem in the computer system and posting a response to the CSTM server and channel regarding the problem.
- [c14] 14. A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for implementing remote computer management of a computer system, the program product comprising:
 - program code configured to monitor a client-server text messaging (CSTM) server for a command, each command including a computer system identifier for the command and an instruction; and
 - program code configured to manage the computer system responsive to the instruction.
- [c15] 15. The program product of claim 14, wherein the program code configured to monitor functions according to Internet relay chat protocol.
- [c16] 16. The program product of claim 14, wherein the command is in the form of a text string.
- [c17] 17. The program product of claim 14, wherein the command includes a preface, an identifier and an instruction for the management program code.
- [c18] 18. The program product of claim 14, further comprising program code configured to record posted commands at the CSTM server.
- [c19] 19. The program product of claim 14, further comprising program code configured to sense a problem in the computer system and post a response to

the CSTM server regarding the problem.

[c20]

20. The program product of claim 14, further comprising program code configured to post a response from the management program to the CSTM server.